salaries of its employees with effect from Ist May, 1989; and

(b) if so, whether the amounts deducted have been deposited with the provident fund Commissioner, New Delhi or with the Provident Fund Trust of ITDC and if not, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Ashok Restaurant at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi is a separate new unit commissioned by the ITDC in April, 1986. Being a new unit of the Corporation and employing more than 50 persons, it was eligible for 3 years' grace period for deductions/deposit of Provident Fund under Employees Provident Fund and Misc. Provisions Act, 1952. ITDC, therefore, requested the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Delhi after 3 years to allot a code number. The request of ITDC has not been agreed to on the ground that the Corporation has its own Provident Fund Trust. Against this decision of Regional Provident Fund Commissioner the ITDC has filed an appeal in the Delhi High Court. The Court has granted interim stay orders and the matter is *sub-judice*.

Oil Gas reserves in Khashi Mara River Valley

961. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated ocurrence of oil and gas in the Khashi Mara river valley in Meghalaya;

(b) the infrastructure in place for exploitation of the oil well;

(c) whether there is a plan to conduct the oil by pipeline to a refinery; and

(d) whether the oil deposit bestraddles India and Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No drilling has so far taken place in Khashi mara river valley.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Natural Gas for Bihar

962. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the State of Bihar for allocating natural gas from the Bombay high and other centres to enable it to establish gas based industries and power houses, in the state;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action is contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) While a request had been received from the Bihar Government for allocation of gas by extension of the HBJ pipeline, in view of the present availability of gas there is no proposal to extend the pipeline to Bihar.

Development of tourist places in Bihar

963. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal under its consideration to develop the places of religious importance in the State of Bihar as important tourist spots;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Bihar has offered any cooperation in this regard; and